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Reagan Aide Dismisses Comments on Vietnam

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (AP) — President Reagan's chief spokesman today dismissed Mr. Reagan's rambling and factually incorrect account of Vietnamese history at Thursday's news conference as having little relevance "to the problems he was elected to deal with today."

"I don't think it's the heart of what really concerns people in this country," said David Gergen, the White House Communications Director.

Mr. Reagan, at his nationally broadcast news conference Thursday, made a number of comments about Vietnam that did not square with the historical record. He did so in disputing the premise of a questioner who asked whether there were secret plans for United States involvement in Latin America comparable to early Central Intelligence Agency plans in Vietnam.

Mr. Gergen said in an interview with National Public Radio that the President's comments were an "ad lib." And he played down the importance of the remarks.

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